

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. RES. 248

Expressing the sense of the Senate that flowers grown in the United States support the farmers, small businesses, jobs, and economy of the United States, that flower farming is an honorable vocation, and designating July as “American Grown Flower Month”.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

AUGUST 3, 2017

Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself and Ms. MURKOWSKI) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Senate that flowers grown in the United States support the farmers, small businesses, jobs, and economy of the United States, that flower farming is an honorable vocation, and designating July as “American Grown Flower Month”.

Whereas cut flower growers in the United States are hard-working, dedicated individuals who bring beauty, economic stimulus, and pride to their communities and the nation;

Whereas the people of the United States have a long history of using flowers and greens grown in the United States to bring beauty to important events and express affection for loved ones;

Whereas consumers spend almost \$27,000,000,000 each year on floral products, including cut flowers, garden plants, bedding, and indoor plants;

Whereas nearly 30 percent of households in the United States purchase fresh cut flowers and greens from more than 16,000 florists and floral establishments each year;

Whereas the people of the United States increasingly want to support domestically produced foods and agricultural products and would prefer to buy locally grown flowers whenever possible, yet a majority of domestic consumers do not know where the flowers they purchase are grown;

Whereas in response to increased demand, the “Certified American Grown Flowers” logo was created in July 2014 in order to educate and empower consumers to purchase flowers from domestic producers;

Whereas as of April 2017, millions of stems of domestically grown flowers are now “Certified American Grown”;

Whereas domestic flower farmers produce thousands of varieties of flowers across the United States, such as peonies in Alaska, Gerbera daisies in California, lupines in Maine, tulips in Washington, lilies in Oregon, and larkspur in Texas;

Whereas the 5 flower varieties with the highest United States production are tulips, Gerbera daisies, lilies, gladiolas and irises;

Whereas people in every State have access to domestically grown flowers, yet only 1 of 5 flowers sold in the United States is domestically grown;

Whereas the domestic cut flower industry creates almost \$42,000,000 in economic impact daily and supports hun-

dreds of growers, thousands of small businesses, and tens of thousands of jobs in the United States;

Whereas more people in the United States are expressing interest in growing flowers locally, which has resulted in an approximately 20 percent increase in the number of domestic cut flower farms between 2007 and 2012;

Whereas most domestic cut flowers and greens are sold in the United States within 24 to 48 hours after harvest and last longer than flowers shipped longer distances;

Whereas flowers grown domestically enhance the ability of the people of the United States to festively celebrate weddings and births, and honor those who have passed;

Whereas flower-giving has been a holiday tradition in the United States for generations;

Whereas flowers speak to the beauty of motherhood on Mother's Day; and to the spirit of love on Valentine's Day;

Whereas flowers are an essential part of other holidays such as Thanksgiving, Christmas, Hanukkah, and Kwanzaa;

Whereas flowers help commemorate the service and sacrifice of our Armed Forces on Memorial Day and Veterans Day; and

Whereas the Senate encourages the cultivation of flowers in the United States by domestic flower farmers: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) designates July 2017 as “American Grown

3 Flower Month”;

1 (2) recognizes that purchasing flowers grown in
2 the United States supports the farmers, small busi-
3 nesses, jobs, and economy of the United States;

4 (3) recognizes that growing flowers and greens
5 in the United States is a vital part of the agricul-
6 tural industry of the United States;

7 (4) recognizes that cultivating flowers domesti-
8 cally enhances the ability of the people of the United
9 States to festively celebrate holidays and special oc-
10 casions; and

11 (5) urges all people of the United States to
12 proactively showcase flowers and greens grown in
13 the United States in order to show support for our
14 flower farmers, processors, and distributors as well
15 as agriculture in the United States overall.

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